

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

XMT AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032153

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 0400 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO PRETORIA CAPE TOWN FEB 10TH.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0400

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, ZA, RH

SUBJ: OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE: RECOGNITION OF THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT

REF: (A) LUSAKA 0340, (B) LUSAKA 0353

1. THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN LUSAKA HAS COME
AND GONE AND THUS FAR NO COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN ISSUED OR FOR
THAT MATTER ANY OTHER OFFICIAL SUMMATION OF THE WORKINGS OF
THE COMMITTEE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE PROBABLY
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WILL BE NO DOCUMENTATION RELEASED IN LUSAKA AND THAT, IF
AND WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING ARE MADE PUBLIC, IT
WILL BE ISSUED FROM DAR BY OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE
DIRECTOR COL. MBITA.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED
AT THE MEETING WAS THAT THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE IN THE

FUTURE SHOULD DEAL MORE DIRECTLY WITH MILITARY COMMANDERS INSTEAD OF POLITICIANS. THIS WOULD PERMIT THE COMMITTEE TO FOCUS ON LIBERATION PROBLEMS OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN. A RECOMMENDATION TO THIS EFFECT WILL BE MADE TO THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS.

3. THE ABSENCE OF A WRITTEN RECORD PERMITS PARTIES TO THE MEETING TO INTERPRET THE CONCLUSIONS ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN BENT. PRESIDENT KAUNDA CAN ASSERT, FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS HOME AUDIENCE, AS HE HAS DONE, THAT THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE FRONTLINE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ZAIRE, GHANA, AND OTHERS ARE FREE TO SUPPORT WHOMEVER THEY WISH AMONG THE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST FACTIONS. NIGERIA, WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE ARGUED FOR SOME FLEXIBILITY BY DROPPING THE WORD "RECOGNITION" FROM ANY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, CAN ACCEPT THE FRONTLINE CLAIM THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO CHANNEL ALL AID, MILITARY AND POLITICAL, THROUGH THE PF.

4. THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS GIVEN IN REFTEL (B) REMAINS A WORKING DOCUMENT AND AS NOTED IN THAT TELEGRAM IS SUBJECT TO VARIED INTERPRETATIONS. IT WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN TOGO LATER THIS MONTH. IT WILL BE FORWARDED BY POUCH. LOW
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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